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POLARPAM

# Jean Marie River

NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES



INFORMATION

## JEAN MARIE RIVER

From the Mackenzie River you spot a clearing on the left bank where the Jean Marie River meets the Mackenzie. With hazy sun, the scene seems almost tropical. The pines in the clearing play palm trees, with their bottom branches stripped so that tufts of green remain only at the tops. The neatly trimmed log houses look like cabanas along the beach of some resort. Of course in winter any tropical illusion is smothered under the blanket of snow.

Jean Marie River is a community of about fifty Slave or Slavey Indians, who essentially form one big family. This makes for great community spirit and co-operation. The settlement has no commercial facilities of its own. Trade, barter, and finance are carried on at Fort Simpson, forty miles down-river.

The Jean Marie River, which enters the Mackenzie River from the south, is about 110 miles long. Its headwaters are near those of Trout River. The location of the settlement, at the mouth of the Jean Marie River, is  $61^{\circ} 32'$  North Longitude,  $120^{\circ} 38'$  West Latitude.

## ECONOMY

The Slave Indians of Jean Marie River hunt and trap for a living, and seven people are employed in the two local businesses — community store and community sawmill. The community sawmill provides lumber for domestic use, and also fills special orders. The mill is now operated by the community as a co-operative endeavour, as is the store, and is quite successful. Wood suitable for boat building is abundant locally. There is a community garden at the junction of the Jean Marie and Mackenzie Rivers.



## TRANSPORTATION

Jean Marie River has a 1,400' by 150' clay runway which is not regularly maintained. Simple docking facilities are available for float planes. The settlement is supplied by barges from Hay River during the mid-June to mid-October shipping season. Canoes provide a popular means of local transportation. What was once a network of trails has become the local road system. Jean Marie is inaccessible by road from outside.

## COMMUNICATIONS

Mail is delivered to Jean Marie River about twice a month. Canadian National Telecommunications maintains a radio-phone, mainly for medical emergencies, but also for commercial and private use. The Mackenzie Forest Service also operates a radio for its purposes.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

There are no public accommodations at Jean Marie River. All accommodations are private. Or 'bring your own' tent.

## MUNICIPAL SERVICES

The school in Jean Marie River has a water pressure system — the only one in the settlement. Potable water is obtained from wells and from the rivers. The school also has a septic system, while the rest of the town makes use of outhouses. The government of the Northwest Territories provides electricity from two diesel units with a 80 kw capacity. Oil storage tanks have a bulk capacity of 108,000 gallons.

## HEALTH SERVICES

There are no medical facilities in Jean Marie River. However, Fort Simpson is easily accessible, and patients are taken there for medical attention.

## EDUCATION

Grades one through six are taught at Jean Marie River in a one-classroom school with a capacity for 50 students. At present the school principal also acts as settlement manager.

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## **STORES**

Community Store - groceries  
Community Sawmill - lumber

## **CHURCHES**

Most residents of Jean Marie River are Roman Catholic. A small log chapel is maintained in the settlement, but there is no resident priest. Usually the people visit the R.C. Church at Fort Simpson.

## **RECREATION**

Jean Marie River has a curling rink, but no recreation hall as such. Of course the environment provides infinite facilities for outdoors activities. Canoeing is very popular locally. Canoe travel on the Jean Marie River is easy, as there are long stretches of dead water between the rapids.

## **ODDS AND ENDS**

There is no fire department in Jean Marie River. Extinguishers are supplied to residents as a safety measure.

Liquor is not available in the settlement, but can be obtained in Fort Simpson. Many other facilities, e.g. bank and post office, in Fort Simpson are also utilized by residents of Jean Marie River.

N.W.T. Public Library Services supplies Jean Marie River with a small library.

**JEAN MARIE RIVER**

**TERRITORIAL DAY SCHOOL**

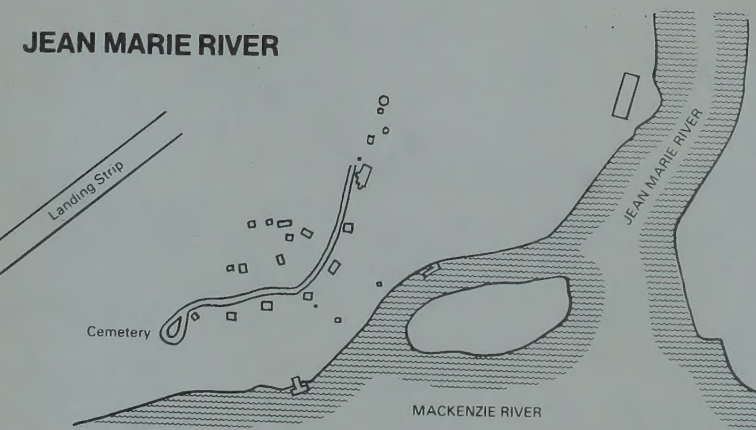
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## JEAN MARIE RIVER



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JEAN MARIE RIVER

## NORTHWEST TERRITORIES GENERAL INFORMATION

1,304,903 square miles, being 33.9 percent of the area of Canada.

Mainland area	730,266 square miles
Freshwater area	51,465 square miles
Offshore Islands area	523,172 square miles

Coastline length — approximately 9,500 miles.

Highway system — 841 miles.

Population — 1971 - 35,526: 1966 - 28,128

Business Volume 1970 — approximately \$215,000,000

Value of mineral production included above — \$124,000,000

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